

I had always thought part of the job of the FCC was to do what's best for the public. Either I am severely mistaken, or the role of the FCC has taken a tragically different direction from the mandate I thought it had.

The broadcast flag is but one of the issues before the FCC where the public seems to be losing out. I have heard implementation of the BF called "a solution that doesn't work for a problem that doesn't exist"; I couldn't agree more. It is acknowledged even by the FCC and the content industries that the BF will not stop pirating of media content. The sole purpose of the BF seems to be to start the process of locking up digital content for the big media companies so it becomes easier and easier to deny consumer's LAWFUL fair use rights.

I don't record TV shows or movies because I don't particularly care about time shifting. I do, however, own an HD television and receive a variety of HD programming and I find it deeply offensive that the FCC is willing to mandate something that ONLY benefits the media industry, while imposing the monetary costs and the loss of fair use rights on the consumer.

And for goodness sake, we are talking about FREE TV here! These shows are broadcast over the PUBLIC airwaves in the clear. What right do the networks have to "lock up" this free content?

The broadcast flag is a bad policy that gives no benefit to the public, but imposes major costs in terms of money and lost rights.